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U. S. Department of Agriculture

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

CORN

A booth exhibit showing practices necessary to grow a good crop of corn; how to feed to get the most out of it; and estimates on the use of the annual crop.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - - - - 12' 3" front, 8' 2" (depth
Wall space - - - - - - - - None.
Shipping weight - - - - - 625 lbs.
Electrical requirements - None.

CORN

How It Looks

This exhibit, in form of a booth 13 feet across the front, 8 ft. deep and 7 ft. high first impresses the viewer on account of the neat arrangement of the small amount of text used to convey the best ways of getting the most out of corn when it is fed.

On a shelf at the bottom of the center section is seen a model of a balance on which has been placed ear cprm and alfalfa and the indicator hand pointing to a properly balanced ration. This shows how to get the most out of corn and supplements the test on the center section.

The superiority of alfalfa and corn versus corn and prairie hay for fattening steers, as proven by a 3-year feeding experiment in Nebraska, is shown graphically at the bottom of the left section by means of small amounts of these feeds and percentage bars of different lengths. The text on this section shows the value of corn for hogs and cattle.

On the right section is seen a large circle containing pictures of hogs, cattle, horses, etc., eating a certain percentage of the average annual corn crop. The lines running from the center of the circle to the circumference divide up the space within the circle so as to show how the average corn crop is used.

What It Tells

This exhibit enumerates some of the practices that must be observed in growing a good corn crop, tells how corn must be fed to get the most out of it, and gives some figures on the uses of corn based upon estimates by the Department.

One of the first considerations in plans for a better corn crop is the seed used and the seed bed in which it is planted. The yield is greatly influenced by the quality of seed that is planted, and if good seed is planted care should be taken to see that the field is well prepared for corn and well cultivated

until the corn is mature. Protection from injury by insect pests such as corn ear worm and the European corn borer, and protection from destruction by rodents such as the 13-lined ground squirrel, often makes the difference between a good corn crop and a poor one. Limited space does not permit giving details of good corn culture in the exhibit, but those who wish detailed information on the subject may obtain it by writing to the Department for bulletins on the subject.

The important point to remember when feeding corn is that it is not a complete and well-balanced feed by itself, and that it should be combined in the ration with feeds containing larger amounts of protein. For cattle, green legumes, legume hay or protein meal should be added to corn to make the ration well balanced. In a three-year experiment with yearlings and 2-year-old steers in Nebraska, corn and legume hay produced 37 per cent more gain than practically the same amounts of corn and prairie hay. In hog feeding, the value of corn is increased 33 per cent or more by feeding suitable protein feeds such as tankage or skim milk with it.

The exhibit shows in graphic form the uses made of the corn crop in the United States in an average year. More than 85 per cent is fed to livestock and somewhat less than 10 per cent is used directly for food. The hog is the largest direct consumer of corn; 40 per cent of the total crop is fed to swine on farms. Horses and cattle, it is estimated, account for 20 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively. The next largest use of corn is for human food, 10 per cent of the crop being consumed on farms and ground in merchant flour mills (principally for food). The exports of corn as grain have been almost negligible.

Where to Get Information

A detailed study of corn crops of the United States is contained in the 1921 Yearbook of the Department. The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers' Bulletin 1073 - Growing Beef on the Farm
Farmers' Bulletin 1379 - Beef Production in the Cotton Belt

Farmers' Bulletin 1416 - Fattening Beef Calves
U.S.D.A. Bulletin 628 - Wintering and Fattening Beef Cattle in North Carolina
U.S.D.A. Bulletin 631 - Five Year's Calf-Feeding Work in Alabama and Mississippi
Yearbook Separate 874 - Our Beef Supply
Yearbook Separate 872 - The Corn Crop